

from Dodge to Rugar, which have been introduced in evidence, Mrs. Morse refused to consent to a proceeding to that end. She saw the letters in Mr. Fugate's office, but she was not sure that they were in Dodge's handwriting.

"Did she say that there was some faint about the divorce?"

"She said she would prefer a new one, if there was some question about it," said Mr. Morse.

"Didn't she say the divorce was tainted, using that word?"

"I couldn't say that she did," she said, "preferred a new divorce."

Mr. Morse further testified that a new action in behalf of Mrs. Morse for a divorce from Dodge was not fully begun.

"And isn't it true, asked Mr. Stanchfield, that a divorce was obtained for Hummel from Dodge, or that a written authority for Hummel to act for Dodge was brought to Mr. Hummel by a nephew of Mrs. Morse?"

"It is," said Mr. Morse. He added that the proceedings got far as the taking of testimony, but were stopped by the intervention of Mr. Hummel in the Morse marriage annulment proceedings.

"Isn't it a fact that you did not believe that Sweetser had served Dodge with the summons in his wife's suit?"

"I never felt very certain about it,"

A few having examined the witness on these points, Mr. Stanchfield took up Mrs. Morse's family troubles over his marriage to Mr. Dodge. Mrs. Morse said that he had known Mr. Dodge for three years before he married her, but that his children didn't know the marriage was contemplated until three weeks before it occurred. He simply didn't tell his children.

"Wasn't there the warmest kind of opposition from your children?" asked Mr. Stanchfield.

"At first Mr. Morse refused to discuss that phase of his marriage. Then he said there was no discussion of it, because his children wouldn't dare, and he said that his wife wouldn't dare, and he said that his wife wouldn't dare."

"Do you know that your sister and uncle opposed the marriage because they didn't think it was a proper one and would alienate the affections of your children?"

"I heard of it from the newspapers, but no one discussed it with me," replied Mr. Morse.

"Didn't your uncle take the position that you shouldn't be married a divorced woman and that it was wrong and unjust to your children?" asked Mr. Stanchfield.

"I can't answer that," Mr. Morse said.

"I have heard that you had the presence of another gentleman, but not to me."

"It wouldn't have been particularly safe for him to have said to you, would it?" asked Mr. Stanchfield.

"No," he wouldn't," angrily replied the witness.

"How often did you hear your uncle say that Mr. Dodge was an unfit woman for you to marry?"

"Once," snipped the witness.

"Where did that conversation take place?"

"At New London, last April," she declared.

"Didn't he say he intended to see if in some way the marriage couldn't be invalidated?"

"He said he tried."

"Haven't you heard from your children complaints about your marriage to Mrs. Dodge?"

"I wouldn't dare; I wouldn't tolerate it," they never complained, but sometimes they thought that I didn't see them as often as I should."

"Your sister and family in Maine are religious people?"

"Yes, sir."

"Didn't they complain that you had wedded them by marrying this divorced woman?"

"I can't say that. I knew from their manner that they disapproved of my marriage."

"Your children never lived where your second wife could act in the capacity of a mother to them?"

"No, sir."

"Didn't Sweetser say at Hummel's house that Rugar was dead?"

"Yes."

"Didn't Mrs. Dodge say at the office of Judge Furman that she knew her divorce wasn't good and that she wanted a new one?"

"Yes."

"Questioned by Mr. Rand, Mr. Morse said that Mrs. Morse said she was not satisfied with the divorce, but she didn't say she knew it was not a good one."

"Who was the other gentleman in whose presence Mrs. Morse said that your marriage was tainted?" asked Mr. Stanchfield.

"Mr. Jerome," said Mr. Morse.

"Jerome was the only person on earth before whom Capt. Morse would dare tell you that, wasn't it?" asked Mr. Stanchfield.

"And I don't think he would do it again," said Mr. Morse.

"Jerome may have something to say about that," was Mr. Stanchfield's rejoinder.

As soon as the morning session opened Justice Rogers was on the bench at stroke of 10. Mr. Rand put Lawyer Sweetser on the stand. Sweetser said that Mrs. Dodge engaged him as her attorney, and that he served the summons on her action for divorce on Dodge at the Everett House on March 1, 1907. The letters from Dodge to Rugar he found in the office of a lawyer named Moore, who had been Rugar's partner at 15 Broadway. That was on January 8, 1906. He admitted going to the hearing at Judge Rogers' office, but he produced no letters from Dodge to Rugar, although he admitted that he had suggested their existence. Mr. Nicoll showed that at one of the hearings on the divorce, Sweetser had testified that he had had nothing to do with the retaining of Rugar for Dodge. Sweetser admitted yesterday that he had something to do with bringing Rugar into the case.

As to Rugar's fee, Sweetser said that Mrs. Dodge wanted him to pay Rugar out of the money he had received from the divorce. He said that he had paid Rugar independently of the money he got from her. He couldn't remember that he had ever sent a bill to her for Rugar's services, but he understood that Mrs. Dodge was to pay all the expenses of getting the divorce.

Mr. Morse had been examined by Mr. Stanchfield on the payment of Rugar, and while he said that he had talked with his wife about it, he didn't know that she had paid Rugar's services, but he understood that Mrs. Dodge was to pay all the expenses of getting the divorce.

Mr. Sweetser was also asked about the interview at Hummel's house. He said that he never told Mr. Morse that he had identified Dodge from a newspaper picture, "because as a lawyer, I knew that would be foolish." He couldn't understand how Mr. Morse had got that impression of the conversation.

Then came Herpich, who looks something like Dodge. He said that he knew Hummel and Nathaniel Cohen, Cohen came to him and asked him to see Hummel. He went to Hummel's office and shook hands with Hummel.

"I want to use you for about 15 minutes," Hummel said, according to Herpich.

"Here's a card, and I want you to go down to the office. I want you to go down to do me a favor, and I'll be glad to return it when ever I can. There's to be a hearing at Judge Hall's office. You come in and sit down between me and Stanchfield. You won't have to testify. If a man makes a mistake and identifies you as another man that's all I want. There is only a chance in a thousand that he will make a mistake, but I want to take that chance."

Herpich fulfilled his part of the job and Sweetser came in and greeted him. He said that he had identified Dodge from a newspaper picture, "because as a lawyer, I knew that would be foolish." He couldn't understand how Mr. Morse had got that impression of the conversation.

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## ODELL PLOTTERS DIDN'T MEET

PARSONS, BACKED BY HIGGINS, TOO MUCH FOR 'EM.

Parsons Means to Be Head of the Executive Committee as Well as the County Committee and to Have Page for Vice-President—Check to Deputy Boss.

"That meeting of twenty-four of the Republican Assembly district leaders of this county which Boss Odell called for yesterday did not take place. On Thursday last he sent out notices through William Halpin to those leaders to meet him at the Fifth Avenue Hotel on Saturday afternoon."

The notices were sent out before Boss Odell had been told by Senator Brackett Friday that so far as his continued chairmanship of the State committee was concerned he was practically a dead one and before the interview he had at the Hotel Manhattan on Friday evening with Gov. Higgins, when it was made clear to him that his voice in the selection of the new speaker wouldn't be heard three yards away when the time came for the choice to be made.

After he had talked on Friday with Senator Brackett and Gov. Higgins Boss Odell skipped out of town and went back to Newburgh. The invitations which were sent to the district leaders who Boss Odell thought would back him in his efforts to hamstring Representative Parsons as the new head of the Republican county committee, by having Sam Strausburger and Ambrose O. Neal elected as vice-chairman and secretary of the committee, were recalled on Friday.

By one of the leaders who knew of Boss Odell's designs that the announcement made in THE SUN of the meeting had interfered with his plans and that he had ordered Billy Halpin to call the whole thing off.

It is doubtful now if Boss Odell will seek to carry further his underhand project to keep Halpin at the head of the county executive committee and Strausburger vice-president and to make Neal secretary as a result to reduce Neal's influence to a figurehead. Gov. Higgins has told Mr. Parsons that he will support him in his ambition to rehabilitate the Republican party in this county and that Mr. Parsons can depend upon any influence he has in this county to bring about the election of officers of the county committee who will work in accord with Mr. Parsons's views.

There is no doubt that Mr. Parsons will be chosen chairman of the executive committee and as chairman of the county committee. He had conferences yesterday with several of the Republican district leaders and already has pledges which indicate that at least twenty of these leaders will vote for his election to the head of the executive committee. Twenty votes will be more than enough to elect him.

Mr. Parsons repeated last night his determination to fight against Boss Odell's proposal to force him to resign as secretary of the county committee. He said that if he is elected chairman of the county committee his first will be to try to bring back strength to the Republican party in this county by ridding it of the influences which have for so long worked to its ruin as a political factor here.

"Mr. Odell came out some time ago," said Mr. Parsons, "as an opponent of outside interference in the local Republican organization. We took him at his word. We believed what he said then. But he said that at that time and that for reasons which are best known to himself he is planning to dominate the Republican county committee. The majority of the members of that committee don't intend that he shall do so, and I am sure that that determination will be made clear on Thursday night. I wish to see Senator Page elected first vice-president of the organization. He is a man upon whom I can rely. He cannot be bossed and will help me to put the local organization on a new plane. A great deal of the work of the committee will have to be left to the vice-president, for the reason that my duties as a Congressman will keep me away from the city for a great deal of time in the early part of the coming year."

Mr. Parsons was not prepared to say whom he would support for secretary, but it is understood that the new secretary will be Henry E. O'Brien, the secretary of the Republican organization of the Twenty-fifth Assembly district.

Gov. Higgins went back to Albany early yesterday morning. Some of his friends said after he had gone that the Governor might be expected to make public before Monday his preference for the Speakership. Before he went away Gov. Higgins refused to make any comment on the situation, but from those who talked with him while he was in town it was learned that he opposed to the selection of Edwin A. Merritt, Jr., of St. Lawrence county, Boss Odell's candidate, and that he was not in favor of Assemblyman James T. Rogers. In the talk yesterday at the Fifth Avenue Hotel the opinion was frequently heard that Gov. Higgins might be expected to support either Sherman Moreland of Chemung or J. Mayhew Wainwright of Westchester.

DEFEAT WITH ODELL AS LEADER.

Mr. Fassett Says the Republican Party and Odell Cannot Endure Together.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—Representative J. Skott Fassett of Elmira, in speaking tonight of the political situation in New York State, declared that Republican success would be almost impossible under Gov. Odell's management.

"The issue," he said, "is squarely between those who desire to reform the party in obedience to what they understand to be the public demand, on the one hand, and Mr. Odell and his friends, who propose to keep the situation precisely as it is. As I look at it, the whole situation may be summed up in this sentence: It is a struggle between the continuation of the present grip of former Governor Odell on the State organization and the continuation in power of the Republican party. They both cannot endure together."

"It is a false and misleading hope which induces some to believe that because Mr. Hays will enter the race for Governor next fall as an independent he will divide the Democratic vote in such a manner that anybody named by the Republicans under any auspices and under any leadership can carry the State. This argument is adduced by some timid people as a reason for not getting disturbed over the possible continuation in power of the clique, which, according to the sworn testimony of some of its own members before the insurance investigating committee has lost much of its prestige in the public esteem."

Referring to the discussion as to whether or not Gov. Higgins should name the Speaker of the Assembly, Mr. Fassett said that as a general proposition he might oppose it, yet under existing conditions he thought it the Governor's duty to select the Speaker, for the reason that "it was very difficult to beat anybody with nobody."

"Any victory for Gov. Odell," Mr. Fassett

asserted, "is prophetic of defeat for the Republican party. This is without any discussion as to whether the Governor is guilty or innocent of the many charges that are made against him. The public has absolute confidence in the integrity of Gov. Higgins and his purposes, and should be persuaded in his own mind that the welfare of the party and of the State, from both of which he has received such magnificent endorsements, would be furthered by his getting into the open and announcing his choice for Speaker. I have no doubt he would do so. I have no doubt if I should do so he would be applauded for it."

MINES' MAGAZINE BLOWS UP.

Explosion at Roseland, B. C., Felt for Fifty Miles—Great Damage Above Ground.

VICTORIA, B. C., Dec. 16.—The discharge of several tons of high explosives in the joint magazine of the War Eagle and Centre Star mines at Roseland, today caused overground damage estimated in the aggregate at from \$50,000 to \$75,000, inflicted minor injury on a score or more of Roseland citizens, and killed John Ingraham, former Chief of Police of Kootenay City, who had charge of the magazine, not a vestige of whose remains has been discovered.

The explosion was felt everywhere within a radius of fifty miles, and in the city of Roseland, nestling at the foot of Red Mountain, in which are the mines, not so much as one building entirely escaped. Houses on the slope of the mountain and nearest to the mine were wholly demolished, while for a distance of five miles bricks and plaster fell in showers and window glass was shattered by the concussion.

The excitement throughout the camp is so intense to-night that none of a dozen theories can be accepted as a plausible explanation for the explosion, nor can the extent of injury to the mines be established.

DWARF WE DON'T SEEM TO WANT.

He Keeps Coming Over, to Live on His Size, but They Ship Him Back.

Emil Augustus Tift, somewhat more than four feet tall, but with the lofty ambition to be boss of the Lilliputians at Coney Island, is at Ellis Island awaiting deportation because he has no visible means of support except his size, by which he has made a living in Austria-Hungary, where he was born. There are other dwarfs here smaller than Emil, and some of them are out of work.

Emil had the impression that the dwarf city at Coney Island was an all the year round thing and he thought he might get the job of bossing all the rest of the little folks. He tried to get into New York last June by shipping from Hamburg aboard the Patria, and was turned back. This time he shipped at Trieste by the Pannonia. He tried to get into New York last June by shipping from Hamburg aboard the Patria, and was turned back. This time he shipped at Trieste by the Pannonia.

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## NEED MERRITT FOR SPEAKER.

SOME CORPORATE INTERESTS ARE WORKING FOR HIM.

Niagara Power Grabbers and Men Behind the Water Storage Bill and Measures Permitting the Damming of Adirondack Streams Are Backing Merritt.

ALBANY, Dec. 16.—Corporations are working hard in the interest of the candidacy of Edwin A. Merritt, Jr., for Speaker of the Assembly. The paper trust, known as the International Paper Company, is one of them.

Members of Assembly and Republicans of influence throughout the State who can be reached through business, financial and personal sources by the big men of the International Paper Company have received letters that the company would like to see Merritt elected Speaker. They want a friend at court. Merritt has been tried and not found wanting. So has his political chief, Senator George R. Malby, he and Mr. Merritt coming from the same county, St. Lawrence.

In the Legislature Merritt always has been the friend of the paper and pulp mill owners and the timber operators in the Adirondack region, and the International Paper Company is the biggest of these Adirondack operators. Merritt cares about as much for the preservation of the hundreds of thousands of acres of timber land owned by the State in the Adirondack region as he does for the preservation of Niagara Falls. He remarked on the floor of the Assembly last winter in defending the Niagara, Lockport and Ontario power grab bill that he would not object if all the water running over the Falls of Niagara was turned into workable dollars by the power companies. The International Paper Company needs a man like Merritt at Albany. They have many Adirondack interests to protect and have hopes of valued benefits to come.

Merritt and Malby have been the prime backers of legislation permitting the damming of Adirondack streams for water storage and to generate electrical energy by flooding and destroying thousands of acres of State land. Each year some of the water storage bill have attended the attempt to secure legislation. A legislative scandal growing out of the demand of an Assemblyman for \$15,000 from the backers of the water storage bill before he would support it was averted two sessions ago only through the abandonment of the bill.

Last session the Adirondack water storage bill, which would have given the State a controlling interest in the power companies, was passed in the Legislature under a new guise, that of protecting the public health. A State river improvement commission, comprising State officials, was established to put the plan into operation.